

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-8 are currently pending. Claims 7 and 8 are hereby added. Claim 1 is independent and hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed.

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0004984 to Chou (referred to in the Office Action as "David").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1 is representative and recites, *inter alia*:

"... wherein the user in question can prohibit the automatic conversion of the stored data of the user in question into a format compatible with the type of terminal apparatus used by the user other than the user in question."

Claim 1 recites, “... wherein the user in question can prohibit the automatic conversion of the stored data of the user in question into a format compatible with the type of terminal apparatus used by the user other than the user in question.” In an aspect of the present invention, there are multiple users each being able to access the stored data of other users through any of the one or more terminal apparatuses used by the users other than the user in question. The recited feature is not disclosed in Chou.

The highlighted aspect of the present invention allows the data deposited by the user-in-question to be not only utilized by the same user but also shared by other users. The user-in-question can prohibit automatic data format conversion to be performed by this system for any particular other user. If data conversion is not prohibited, the conversion process is the same as in the case of the user-in-question storing and retrieving data to and from the system. Publ. App. pars. [0028]-[0029].

The present application enables not only the user who stored data (“user in question”) into the system but also other users to use the stored data of the user in question. The other users’ terminal type is automatically determined by the present system and the stored data are automatically converted to the format compatible with the terminal apparatus of the other user that happens to be in use. Different users can thus share the stored data in a flexible manner regardless of the type of the terminal apparatus used for connection to the system or the location where the connection is established with the system. Publ. App. par. [0063]. Moreover, the user-in-question can prohibit the automatic conversion of the data stored by the user-in-question for any particular user.

Claim 1 is patentable over Chou because that reference does not disclose each and every element recited in the claim.

Independent claims 7 and 8 are believed patentable for substantially the same reasons as claim 1.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Chou in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0037241 to Puri.

Puri does not add the element missing from Chou as discussed above.

Claims 2-6 are dependent from claim 1. Thus, claims 2-6 are patentable over Chou and Puri for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

CONCLUSION

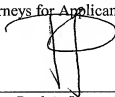
Claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul A. Levy', written over a horizontal line.

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